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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its thirty-first executive session*

Geneva, 10 March 2003

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its thirty-first executive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 10 March 2003. It will appear in final form, together with the reports on the thirtieth executive session, twentieth special session and fiftieth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/58/15).

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Chapter I

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION

Languages for official documentation of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Decision 475 (EX-31)

The Trade and Development Board,

Noting the proposal made at the thirty-fourth session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to issue official documentation of JAG in the Arabic and Chinese languages in addition to the current languages of issuance (English, French, Russian and Spanish),[1]

Noting further that the report of JAG to be submitted to UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board would be in all official languages,

1. *Takes the view* that it would, in principle, be desirable for the official documentation of JAG to be issued also in the other two UN official languages, Arabic and Chinese, in addition to the current languages of issuance;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider the proposal in the light of the Board's view.

941st plenary meeting
10 March 2003

[1] ITC/AG (XXXV)/191, para. 89.

Chapter II

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE (UNCTAD XI)

1. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

> "Proposal by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the substantive item of the provisional agenda for UNCTAD XI" (TD/B/EX(31)/L.1).

2. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the Conference itself and its preparations should be seen as a catalyst for the work of the organization but not as its raison d'être. The fact that UNCTAD was called a Conference did not reflect what it really was. UNCTAD XI would coincide with the fortieth anniversary of UNCTAD, and forty years was long enough for any institution to consolidate its role, which had been well established by dozens of General Assembly resolutions. Of course, it was also essential to adapt to new challenges, but there was no contradiction there — the two aspects were complementary.

3. In preparing for the Conference, it would as always be necessary to start from today's reality, and that in turn meant looking at the important events that had occurred since UNCTAD X and which would have profound implications for development. The process of reflection should have a dual perspective. The first involved capturing the comprehensive external context of development — the wood and not the trees — to see how global processes were affecting development. The second involved looking at national development strategies, not in isolation but in a subregional, regional and international context. The analysis must be dynamic, seeing how global processes on the one hand and national development strategies on the other were always influencing each other. By one definition, globalization was a process in which everything that was global acquired local importance, and everything that was local was also important for the global context. From that perspective, the task ahead would involve first helping countries to make sense of what was happening in the global system and come up with their own response about how to cope with new opportunities or challenges, and then helping the international decision-making process understand the needs and concerns of individual countries. It was a double task, and in fact it was what UNCTAD had been doing for many years. The new element would be a constant effort to improve the synergy and cohesiveness of UNCTAD's work, and in that connection the Commissions' sessions had been very encouraging.

4. The Conference should be comprehensive enough to cover all issues affecting development but at the same time focused enough to produce concrete outcomes that provided a clear sense of direction. The vocation of UNCTAD nowadays was to help build linkages between negotiations — not only on trade but also on other areas — and the productive sector, i.e. to enhance the capacity of developing countries to influence negotiations in a proactive and constructive manner and to improve their performance in many areas, such as technology, exports, enterprise development and foreign direct investment.

5. Finally, it would be important to see how the achievement of those goals required working with different actors, not only Governments but also the private

sector, civil society, and other international organizations, as had been done in Lyon at the 1998 Partners for Development Conference.

6. Logistical preparations for the Conference had been launched in meetings with representatives of the Brazilian Government, and as soon as concrete information was available on the proposed dates and venue of the Conference, it would be made known to delegations.

7. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that UNCTAD was the principal organ of the General Assembly dealing with trade, investment and development issues, and the role of the United Nations in those areas should not be diminished. One of the important roles of UNCTAD was to provide a forum for countries to enhance policy convergence on important global issues and allow the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. The development dimension would therefore have to be incorporated into the agenda of the Conference. Coherence should include not only assisting developing countries to participate in global processes, but also ensuring that global processes took better into account the concerns and interests of developing countries. The emphasis should be not on trade itself but on trade as a vehicle for national development and sustainable growth. Strengthening national productive capacities was key to growth, and specific issues to be tackled in that connection included export diversification, market access and entry, competitiveness, SME development and enhancing supply capacity, and fluctuating and low commodity prices.

8. It was important to follow up on and implement the outcomes of the recent global conferences, specifically in order to translate into concrete actions the decisions taken on poverty eradication, market access and diversification, FDI and the alleviation of the debt burden. The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of WTO had placed development at the heart of the negotiations, and strategies must ensure an integrated approach to financial, trade and investment policies in order to ensure sustainable development. The international environment should be fair, transparent, sustainable and development friendly, but there must also be flexibility and policy space for each developing country.

9. The outcome of UNCTAD XI must be action-oriented and target-specific, with analysis of why some policies worked in some circumstances and not in others. UNCTAD's capacity-building and technical assistance activities should be strengthened, especially in trade and investment-related analysis, enterprise development, SME strategies, competition and diversification. Partnership and mutual respect would be essential, based on shared but differentiated responsibilities related to the different levels of development of the developing countries and their development partners.

10. The economy of the developing world was dependent on exports of basic commodities and resources, and UNCTAD XI would be well placed to undertake a thorough examination of the Cancun Conference. UNCTAD's programme in its next cycle would have to address such issues as enhancing income through increased market access and entry, export diversification and competitiveness, marketing and enhanced supply capacities, SME enhancement, and access to finance and technology.

11. Finally, the preparations for UNCTAD XI should strive for tangible and action-oriented goals. The Conference should continue to involve the business sector and civil society, and experts should continue to enrich discussions. Her Group had a

number of amendments to the wording of the draft agenda item that were designed to achieve better focus without limiting or changing the idea behind the proposal.

12. The representative of **Greece**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that UNCTAD should continue to be a forum for consensus building, research and trade-related technical cooperation and capacity-building. Mainstreaming trade into development and poverty reduction strategies should be a main element of its work. The purpose of the Conference should be to focus in a pragmatic and constructive way on the conditions necessary at the national level for developing countries to maximize their development opportunities. The concerns of developing countries should be reflected in international processes by the international community. UNCTAD XI would take place between two WTO ministerial meetings, and it would therefore have an important complementary role to play in terms of examining how to achieve development gains and move towards the implementation of the Millennium Goals in the area of international trade.

13. The preparatory process for the Conference should be light. It would be important to avoid repeating discussions that had taken place at past international conferences, and attention should focus on implementing their outcomes within the limits of UNCTAD's competence. The European Union had no problem with the proposed agenda item for the Conference, though it would need further focusing; the main focus should be on how to define UNCTAD's role. In that connection, UNCTAD must cooperate with other international organizations and avoid duplication. Account would also have to be taken of the UN reform process. The question of the intergovernmental machinery was important from the point of view of ensuring that UNCTAD stayed relevant, and the machinery would have to be streamlined in accordance with the conclusions of the Mid-term Review; meetings had become too resource-consuming, and the whole issue must be taken up again.

14. On the issue of good governance and enabling local environments, UNCTAD was an important forum for exchanges of experience. UNCTAD investment-related projects could help promote a favourable business and investment climate that might assist countries in attracting investment. However, in the absence of transparency and good governance, sufficient investment flows would not materialize. UNCTAD activities relating to investment, good governance and trade facilitation should therefore be given high priority and sharp focus. That would provide the framework for further work on science and technology, improved export competitiveness, and partnerships for development. It would also make it possible to exploit the comparative advantages of UNCTAD, to the benefit also of the Doha development agenda. Finally, the outcome of the Mid-term Review must be implemented.

15. The representative of **Morocco**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, expressed support for the innovative approach that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had taken to Conference themes. At the same time, the overall preparations for UNCTAD XI should be rooted in the follow-up to UNCTAD X and the Mid-term Review. The issue of coherence between national policies and the globalization process, if it included the whole development dimension, was a welcome point of departure for the Conference agenda. The African continent was facing serious economic difficulties and harboured the majority of LDCs, and UNCTAD XI should seek to identify lasting solutions to Africa's problems in order to enable it to integrate into the multilateral trading system. The issue of coherence could encompass a number of elements: increasing African countries' productive and export capacities, especially for SMEs, and identifying market barriers; dealing with the steady fall in commodity prices; introducing new approaches to debt

reduction to strengthen the HIPC initiative; institutional and human capacity building in the context of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action; and making better use of new information technologies to develop trade. With regard to strengthening UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, it would be essential to enhance UNCTAD's role as a pre- and post-negotiating forum, especially in the context of WTO, enhance its role as a development dialogue forum in general, and enhance its political role as a multilateral development think tank. Member States should engage in a partnership to implement the technical cooperation plan put forward by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in 2002. UNCTAD should also participate actively in the follow-up to the major international conferences that had taken place. Finally, his Group welcomed the idea of having a shorter and more focused Conference.

16. The representative of **Venezuela**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that UNCTAD XI represented an important challenge, and her Group was committed to ensuring the success of the Conference, strengthening the role of UNCTAD and promoting development.

17. Speaking on behalf of her own country, she said that the proposed agenda item was an important point of departure to evaluate the development process since the last Conference. It was essential to ensure coherence between existing rules and the possibility of implementing active policies permitting integration into markets and development. Her country hoped for concrete results, noting that the work done during the Mid-term Review on the functioning of the organization should not be reopened.

18. The representative of **India**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, said that it was essential not to lose sight of the development dimension. In looking at the coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes, the question was whether the international framework provided the right support and whether it was development-led. Trade liberalization was not an end in itself; it was a means towards an end, namely overall development. International rules and laws should therefore take developing countries' needs into account and should not encroach upon their national policy space. As the focal point for consensus-building and for trade and development issues, UNCTAD should assist developing countries in respect of trade policies, diversification and national strategies, building up international competitiveness, etc. UNCTAD's analytical work should always seek linkages between development strategies and competitiveness, and the development dimension should be present in all UNCTAD's activities.

19. The representative of **Bulgaria**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, said that the Secretary-General's initiative on the agenda item for the Conference was timely and appropriate. It provided a good point of departure for developing a detailed list of priorities that would meet the expectations of all countries and confirm UNCTAD as an efficient UN forum working for the cause of development, trade and investment. Group D supported the Secretary-General's proposal.

20. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that enhancing coherence between national strategies and global economic policies was a theme of great current interest. National strategies and global processes must complement and support each other so that the goals set could be achieved. In the context of economic growth and development, promoting trade and investment must be a major concern of developing countries, supported by their development partners. Export diversification and enterprise competitiveness required human and institutional capacity building and productive infrastructure.

The weakness of commodities meant that policies must be found to make production viable, especially in single commodity exporters, and agricultural trade rules and mechanisms must be fairer. Bolder initiatives must be taken on debt and ODA, and the follow-up to the recent major international conferences must be effective and coherent. Closing the gap between national policies and international processes could produce better results.

21. The representative of the **United States of America** said that his Government attached great importance to UNCTAD as the focal point in the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues of investment and technology. Because of the broad array of development policies involved, his Government had organized an inter-agency working group to prepare for the Conference, and it was therefore not yet in a position to endorse the suggested agenda item. UNCTAD XI would provide an opportunity to discuss the primary issues of the day and the best way in which UNCTAD could help developing countries meet their development goals. His country had expected the Conference to focus on competitiveness, on building national productive capacity, and on building UNCTAD's expertise in trade and investment to investigate how developing countries could capitalize on market access to attract investment and build national capacity, as well as to investigate why development policies had succeeded in one country and failed in another. It had anticipated a theme such as "Economic growth through competitiveness: Development policies that seize opportunities offered by trade and investment". "Enhancing coherence" did not get to the heart of UNCTAD's strengths, and the proposal would require considerable work to define "coherence" and UNCTAD's role. UNCTAD should not be limited to chasing after other processes, but on the other hand it should not be the central coordinator for judging the development-related activities of other organizations. Development rested on policies at the national level, and any topic must give priority to that aspect.

22. The representative of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** said that UNCTAD's programme could not be prepared regardless of world events and ongoing activities of other international organizations. The uncertain international situation and the consequences of a possible war might well influence the activities of the whole UN system and should be assessed adequately in the preliminary stages of UNCTAD XI.

23. UNCTAD was the best place to assist developing countries achieve their development goals, and major UN conferences should be followed up with the active participation of UNCTAD. WTO had been more successful in its trade-related objectives than in respect of sustainable development. The benefits of global growth had gone to the North, and UNCTAD's role should be to help bridge the gap between North and South. UNCTAD must contribute to the study of developing countries' national strategies rather than serving as a mere forum for consensus-building on issues of importance to WTO, and it must think of itself as an independent entity. Developing countries could not afford further liberalization and trade concessions without benefiting from fair trade, but UNCTAD's activities on trade issues had not necessarily satisfied members' needs. UNCTAD should stop working on trade from a development perspective and start working for development from a trade perspective, becoming a sponsor for development.

24. Over the past four years, UNCTAD had contributed to a better integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system, and its technical cooperation and analysis had been useful. The first priority now should be to strengthen its role, increase its budget and allocate resources on the basis of

geographical distribution. Then it would be important to assist developing countries in the fields of their choice, ensure the involvement of UNCTAD in ongoing negotiations, and ensure satisfactory outcomes reflecting all points of view from UNCTAD meetings. Developing countries' experts must participate equitably in expert meetings, secretariat employment and civil society activities.

25. In the preparations for UNCTAD XI, special attention must be paid to the development needs of developing countries, focusing on national policies, the role of SMEs in increasing export competitiveness, risk management systems for commodity-dependent countries, market entry and market share of developing countries, coherence between competitiveness and competition policies, access to investment and technology, a master plan for trade in services, and cooperation between UNCTAD and regional organizations.

26. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that, since UNCTAD X, the world had undergone changes, including terrorist attacks, the threat of war, and regional conflict, some of which would shape the agenda of UNCTAD XI. Moreover, while the development paradigm kept changing, the divide between rich and poor kept widening, despite structural reform, and UNCTAD XI clearly had a role to play in addressing that failure. As the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, investment and technology, UNCTAD should work towards achieving policy consensus in those areas. Globalization was not working for the world's poor or for the stability of the global economy, and the critical challenge was to redefine the role of international institutions. Free trade had not ensured fair trade because of such factors as the slow pace of liberalization in sectors of interest to developing countries, the decline in commodity prices, and non-tariff barriers. UNCTAD should therefore work towards a development-oriented trade agenda. The international financial system had evolved in a way that favoured private capital flows over official flows, exchange rate flexibility over stability, and creditors over debtors, and UNCTAD XI should address the limitations of the present financial architecture. Development finance was becoming increasingly scarce, and UNCTAD XI should work towards a scheme that promoted FDI and other capital flows to developing countries, in particular LDCs. International aid had failed to eradicate poverty, with aid flows determined more by political considerations, and this issue should be taken up by the Conference. On global governance, there was no institutional framework in which developing countries could participate effectively in discussions of global economic policies, nor was there any corresponding regulatory regime. Coherence of global economic policy making should be paramount on the Conference agenda. Finally, the knowledge gap and the digital divide should also be taken up. The Conference should advance the cause of the LDCs.

27. The representative of **Cuba** said that UNCTAD was the appropriate place for member States to enhance their understanding of and achieve greater convergence on major global economic developments so that the developing countries could integrate into the world economy gradually and beneficially, in accordance with their level of development. His country supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the substantive agenda item for the Conference; coherence between global economic processes and national development strategies should be based on considerations of how global processes could best take into account the concerns and interests of the developing countries or how the development dimension could best be incorporated into those processes.

28. The representative of **Bolivia** said that the secretariat's proposal for the substantive agenda item was welcome, but UNCTAD would have to become more involved in the work of international organizations that had a significant impact on global economic processes, such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO. UNCTAD should also continue supporting the developing countries in their negotiations, and to that end it should have more resources. With regard to formulating national development strategies, UNCTAD should not concentrate solely on LDCs; it should also focus on developing countries with small and vulnerable economies and landlocked developing countries. The work of UNCTAD should reflect the diversity of the developing countries, which were affected differently by global economic processes. Generalizing about developing countries would not produce effective solutions to their specific problems.

29. The representative of **Japan** said that the preparatory process for the Conference should help further discussion on UNCTAD's central role and comparative advantages in the current multilateral framework on trade and development, in particular in relation to ongoing WTO negotiations. Japan welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the substantive item of the provisional agenda, which could serve as a catalyst for further discussions. However, it was too early to determine the Conference agenda at the present juncture.

30. The representative of **Senegal** said that the Board's session was taking place at a crucial time in the international calendar, since preparations were under way for both the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of WTO and for UNCTAD XI. In that context, the Commissions' results were encouraging. NEPAD required concrete action and commitment on the part of UNCTAD and the international community as a whole, particularly with regard to solving the debt problem, and UNCTAD XI should help identify solutions in respect of debt management and settlement. The topic of the Conference should be broad enough to cover Africa's specificities in the field of trade and development. His country supported the theme as proposed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and amended by the Group of 77 and China.

Action by the Board

31. At its 940th plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board entrusted the President with the task of conducting consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the following elements: the substantive agenda item for UNCTAD XI; specific themes to be taken up within the framework of the agenda item; and the arrangements for the preparatory process. It decided that the deadline for agreement would be before the end of April, and that it would formally endorse the agreement at a resumed 31st executive session in May 2003. It requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for the purposes of the consultations, to present proposals for themes and for the arrangements for the preparatory process.

Chapter III

MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE BOARD ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(a) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, seventh session (3-6 February 2003)

32. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the President of the Commission, said that the Commission's seventh session had strengthened the Commission's role as an intergovernmental forum for meaningful discussions. Its policy discussions had provided a strategic overview on systemic issues, deepening the development dimension of multilateral trade negotiations and highlighting the situation faced by developing country exporters in global markets. Because of the importance of the topics discussed for developing countries, the Group of 77 and China had proposed the adoption of agreed conclusions, in particular on agenda item 3, but no agreement had been reached on that approach.

33. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that secretariat activities in the area of trade were of vital importance to the LDCs. The LDCs hoped that the outcome of the Commission's session would be implemented, and that diversification, market access and competitiveness in the area of commodities would be given due attention. The LDCs were disappointed that it had not been possible to adopt agreed conclusions.

Action by the Board

34. At its 941st plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board took note of the report of the Commission (TD/B/EX(31)/4-TD/B/COM.1/58), endorsed the recommendations contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

(b) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, seventh session (20-24 January 2003)

35. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking in his capacity as President of the Commission, said that, on the issue of investment policy reviews, both developed and developing countries had expressed satisfaction with the programme, and the European Union had stressed that sufficient time should be allowed at Commission sessions for reviews. Almost all delegations had praised the quantity and quality of the secretariat's outputs, and a Commission/WAIPA joint session had proved innovative and successful.

Action by the Board

36. At its 941st plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board took note of the report of the Commission (TD/B/EX(31)/3-TD/B/COM.2/50), endorsed the recommendations contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

(c) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, seventh session (24-27 February 2003)

37. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the President of the Commission, said that, on improving the competitiveness of SMEs, it had been stressed that sound macroeconomic policies should be considered a basic component of any competitiveness strategy and that the lack of focus in horizontal policies could be overcome through the use of complementary targeted instruments to promote inter-firm cooperation. On transport and trade facilitation, the importance of these for enhancing the participation of developing countries in world trade had been emphasized, and many delegations had noted the importance of UNCTAD's assistance in that respect. On electronic commerce strategies, the lack of readily available data on the use of ICT and e-commerce was a major obstacle to identifying priority areas of policy action.

Action by the Board

38. At its 941st plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board took note of the report of the Commission (TD/B/EX(31)/5-TD/B/COM.3/55), endorsed the recommendations contained therein, approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's next session, and approved the topics for the next cycle of expert meetings.

(d) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its fortieth session (13-17 January 2003)

Action by the Board

39. At its 941st plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party (TD/B/EX(31)/2-TD/B/WP/160) and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

Closing statement on agenda item 3

40. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that the topics discussed by the Commissions were very relevant to the interests of the developing countries. While national conditions played a major role in creating the conditions necessary for sustainable development, the international community needed to be aware of the difficulties that small developing countries faced and ensure that a conducive international environment existed. The development partners should support UNCTAD's work on overcoming development constraints, since it was in everyone's interest that development be achieved in an equitable manner.

41. With regard to UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, it was now clear that there were different interpretations about the outcome of the Mid-term Review. However, that outcome stated clearly that, while the main objective of a meeting was to maximize the time devoted to substantive dialogue, member countries still had the latitude to request an outcome they deemed appropriate. The Commission on Trade had discussed commodity-related issues of utmost significance to developing countries, and her Group had hoped to have concise and balanced agreed conclusions on those issues. It had proposed draft agreed conclusions to that end. The foundation of intergovernmental work of the United Nations was to allow for consensus-building and policy formulation, and to have agreed conclusions on the one item in question would have shown the common desire of the international

community to address the issue. The Chairman's summary was a reflection of the views expressed in the Commission, but what was needed was a consensus text that represented the views of the Commission. Although her Group's proposal had received overwhelming support, it had been rejected on the grounds that some countries did not wish to consider another document. Her Group would insist on any member countries' right to propose a consensus document that they considered important, and the membership of UNCTAD had the duty to embark on the process of consultation and consensus-building. The future of the intergovernmental work of UNCTAD would be in jeopardy if delegations did not allow themselves the flexibility and wisdom to negotiate matters of importance to themselves and the organization.

Chapter IV

OTHER BUSINESS

Languages for official documentation of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

42. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

"Languages for official documentation of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO: draft decision presented by the Group of 77 and China" (TD/B/EX(31)/L.2);

"Provision of documentation in six languages to the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO" (TD/B/EX(31)/CRP.1).

43. The representative of **Thailand**, introducing the draft decision on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that Joint Advisory Group (JAG) documents were part of the official documentation of the Board, and should therefore be produced in all the Board's official languages so as to be accessible to as many people as possible. There should be no objection in principle to that, and WTO had agreed to follow the decision of the United Nations in the matter. The cost of translating into two more languages would represent 0.5 per cent of the proposed ITC budget; the question of the budgetary implications would be taken up by the General Assembly.

44. The representative of **Greece**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that, if the draft decision was adopted, any additional cost involved should be covered from within existing budgetary resources.

45. The representative of the **United States of America** said that, if the General Assembly decided to add two languages for JAG documentation, translation costs should be absorbed within existing resources.

Action by the Board

46. At its 941st plenary meeting, on 10 March 2003, the Board adopted draft decision TD/B/EX(31)/L.2. (For the text of the decision, see chapter I above.)

Chapter V

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

(a) Opening of the session

47. The session was opened by the President of the Board.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

48. The Board adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document TD/B/EX(31)/1. (For the agenda, see annex I below.)

(c) Bureau

49. The Bureau of the Board was as elected at the forty-ninth regular session, namely:

President:	Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev	(Bulgaria)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
	Mr. Boniface Chidyausiku	(Zimbabwe)
	Mr. Luiz Felipe de Seixas Corrêa	(Brazil)
	Mr. Nathan Irumba	(Uganda)
	Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado	(Japan)
	Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths	(United States of America)
	Mr. François Leger	(France)
	Mr. Samuel T. Ramel	(Philippines)
	Mr. Lester Mejía Solís	(Nicaragua)
	Mr. Eberhard Von Schubert	(Germany)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Mehdi Fakheri	(Islamic Republic of Iran)

(d) Membership of UNCTAD

50. The Board was informed that the membership of UNCTAD stood at 192 (as listed in document TD/B/INF.199).

(e) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

51. The Board was informed that the membership of the Board stood at 148 (as listed in document TD/B/INF.199).

(f) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

52. The Board decided that the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) should be included in the list provided for in rule 76 of its rules of procedure. (For background information on AAAID, see document TD/B/EX(31)/R.1.)

(g) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

53. The Board was informed that there were 188 NGOs in status with UNCTAD (as listed in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/5 and Corr.1).

(h) Calendar of meetings

54. The Board approved the revised calendar of meetings for 2003 and the first quarter of 2004 (TD/B/INF.198/Rev.1).

(i) Report of the Board on its thirty-first executive session

55. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its thirty-first executive session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Preparations for the eleventh session of the Conference (UNCTAD XI)
3. Matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary bodies:
   (a) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, seventh session (3–6 February 2003)
   (b) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, seventh session (20–24 January 2003)
   (c) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, seventh session (24–27 February 2003)
   (d) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its fortieth session (13–17 January 2003)
4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   (a) Membership of UNCTAD
   (b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board
   (c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
   (d) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
5. Other business
6. Report of the Board on its thirty-first session

Annex II

ATTENDANCE[1]

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session:

Albania
Angola
Argentina
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Congo
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Latvia
Lebanon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malta
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Oman

[1] For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(31)/INF.1.

Panama	Sri Lanka
Paraguay	Thailand
Philippines	Trinidad and Tobago
Portugal	Tunisia
Russian Federation	Uganda
Saudi Arabia	Ukraine
Senegal	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Serbia and Montenegro	Venezuela
Slovakia	Viet Nam
South Africa	Yemen
Spain	Zimbabwe

2. The following other State member of UNCTAD, not a member of the Board, was represented as an observer at the session:

Holy See

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

European Community

League of Arab States

Organization of African Unity

Organization of the Islamic Conference

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

International Monetary Fund

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Trade Organization

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

World Confederation of Labour

World Federation of Trade Unions